

FIRST RECORD OF THE FAMILY LEPTOPODIDAE (HEMIPTERA)
FROM AUSTRALIA.

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This article reports the occurrence of the shore-bug family Leptopodidae in Queensland, Australia, heretofore unknown from the Australian Region. I am indebted to Dr. T. E. Woodward, University of Queensland, Brisbane, for kindly sending me the specimens for study. The type and allotype are deposited in the Queensland Museum.

VALLERIOLA WILSONAE sp. nov.

Moderately large, slender, blackish with a few pale markings as noted along with structures. Length, 3.90 mm.; width, 1.25 mm.

Head strongly convex between eyes, with a median longitudinal furrow in front of ocellar tubercle, black with apical margin of front, two large calluses (one on each side) on anterior part of vertex and a quadrate spot back of ocelli flavotestaceous, clothed with suppressed pale pubescence, armed on each side with three, extremely long, slender, laterally-projected, whitish testaceous spines; gula, lora and juga flavous, the former clothed with rather long hairs; ocelli small, slightly separated, placed on top of a low tubercle, each slightly sloping downward laterally; eyes extremely large, slightly convergent anteriorly, placed on the end of large tubercles, pale fuscous with darkened areas. Rostrum pale testaceous with last two segments dark fuscous; segment I longest, flattened and slightly convex beneath, armed on each side with two slender, extremely long, laterally-directed, whitish testaceous spines; II with one or two stiff, white hairs on each side; measurements—I, 35; II, 25; III, 18. Antennae long, slender, blackish fuscous, nude save for tiny pubescence on terminal segment; segment I short, stout, with one side testaceous; II a little stouter than last two segments, much slenderer than I; III and IV quite slender; measurements—I, 25; II, 60; III, 120; IV, 95.

Pronotum strongly narrowed anteriorly, with fore lobe much narrower than hind lobe (52:95), slightly shining, black with a median longitudinal flavotestaceous streak on disc and on posterior margin of hind lobe, sparsely beset with rather long, fine, erect, pale hairs; paranota very narrow, nearly of uniform width, slightly reflexed, fuscous with turned-up exterior margin blackish fuscous; collar narrow, truncate in front, deeply and widely constricted behind collar forming a wide furrow which is very coarsely punctate (reticulate) at bottom; fore lobe rather strongly tumid, impunctate, with a prominent, median, longitudinal furrow dividing it into right and left lobes; hind lobe convexly elevated posteriorly, higher than front lobe, very coarsely punctate (reticulate), subequal in length to fore lobe and collar conjoined; scutellum rather small, triangular, with base deeply impressed at middle, the basal width and median length subequal.

Hemelytra with veins and cells typical of the genus *Valleriola*, sparsely clothed with long pale hairs as on pronotum, slightly shining, black with apex and two subbasal marks in clavus, a short streak near the middle of inner corium, a small rounded spot in outer corium just opposite the rounded basal spot in fourth cell of membrane flavous; membrane dark fuscous save basal spot in last cell; embolium narrow, pale flavous, feebly widened basally, with a submarginal row of very slender, fairly long, erect, pale flavous, bristle like spines. Abdomen beneath dark fuscous with hind margin of segments testaceous. Acetabula becoming whitish towards inferior edge. Legs long, slender, sparsely, indistinctly pubescent, with all femora strongly tapering apically; all tarsi testaceous with last segment blackish fuscous, the second segment much longer than the third. Anterior coxae and trochanters whitish testaceous, the former armed with three very long spines on front face; anterior femora much stouter than other femora, whitish testaceous with long dorsal stripe beyond base and short (transverse) stripes on hind surface dark fuscous, armed beneath with two long rows of short, slender, closely-set, blackish fuscous spines. The posterior row also with four or five very long, slender, erect, whitish spines about equally spaced (sometimes one or two similar long spines in front row); tibiae slender, straight, testaceous, becoming brownish apically, armed beneath with a long row of slender, rather short, brownish spines, all of which are tilted apically; femora longer than tarsi (130 : 92). Middle legs unarmed, slender; femora whitish testaceous with a dorsal stripe and apical part fuscous or blackish fuscous; tibiae slender, straight, testaceous with apical part brownish, subequal to femora in length (134 : 132). Hind legs longest, unarmed, colour and markings very similar to middle legs, the tibiae longer than femora (210 : 148). Measurements; 80 units equal 1 mm.

Type (female, T5313) and allotype (male, T5314), Somerset Dam, south-east Queensland, 26-5-1952, collected by Miss M. Wilson, in whose honour the insect is named. Both in collections of the Queensland Museum. Paratype: 1 female (damaged), Tolga, Atherton, north Queensland, 20-5-1951, D. J. Tranter.

In size and general aspect, this species resembles *V. buenoi* (Usinger) of the Philippines, but is easily distinguished from it by the shorter fourth antennal segment, less tumid anterior lobe of pronotum and arrangement of the two flavous apical spots on the hemelytra.
